Use of US aid by Pakistan

tl460. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SMT. MAYA SINGH: SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial aid worth millions of rupees from US was given to Pakistan to keep a check on the terrorists;

(b) whether that amount was used by Pakistan for procuring ammunition and F-16 aircrafts to be used against India instead of using the same amount againsf the terrorist;

(c) whether this fact is being brought into America's notice by Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of US Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Richard A. Boucher, the US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, said in testimony before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on US Foreign Assistance to Pakistan on December 6,2007 that since 2002 the US has provided to Pakistan economic assistance totalling $ 2.4 billion. Since 2002, the United States has also provided security assistance to Pakistan totalling $ 1.9 billion. In addition, it has provided $ 5.3 billion in Coalition Support Funds to reimburse Pakistan for expenses incurred in the 'War on Terror'. The United States has also recently begun to implement a five-year $ 750 million development strategy for Pakistan's frontier region.

The Government is concerned that arms and security assistance received by Pakistan is not relevant only for counter-terrorism and could create regional imbalances. India's concerns have been coveyed to the United States. Government continues to take all necessary steps to safeguard India's security.

Extradition of terrorists

tl461. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is unnecessary delay in the extradition of large numbers of terrorists living abroad;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government is not presenting this case properly before foreign Governments;

(c) if so, whether Government would take any step for early extradition of dreaded terrorists for the sake of Country's safety; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No, there is no delay on the part of Government in taking action for the extradition of terrorists living abroad. However, the decision making process

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.